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J.M.C. Opening Addresses

The Professor and the Pupil;

A

GENERAL INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

DELIVERED OCTOBER 13TH,

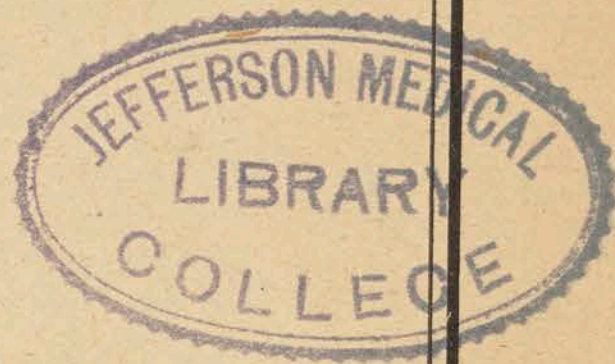
IN THE

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA,

(SESSION 1862-3),

By PROF. THOS. D. MITCHELL, M.D.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

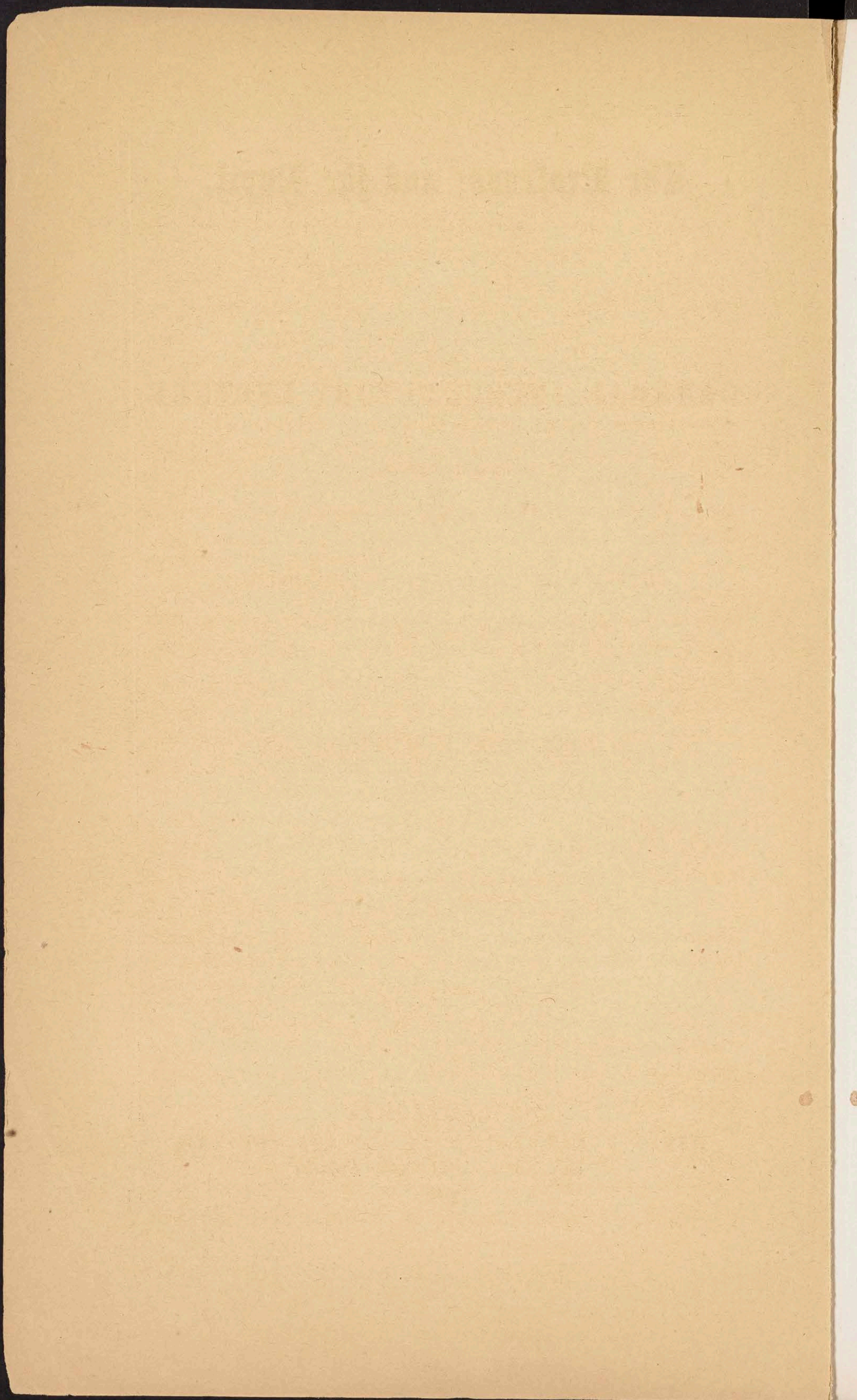


PHILADELPHIA:

HENRY B. ASHMEAD, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,

Nos. 1102 AND 1104 SANSON STREET.

1862.



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THE PROFESSOR AND THE PUPIL

GENERAL INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

LECTURE NOTES OF THE COURSE

BY THE AUTHOR, J. W. B. WILSON, M.D.

PHILADELPHIA: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO. 1871

11/14.
of
Franklin Bache, Esq.

CORRESPONDENCE.

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE,
PHILADELPHIA, *October 23, 1862.*

PROF. T. D. MITCHELL.

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the students of the Jefferson Medical College, which was held this day, W. B. Corbit, of Delaware, was called to the chair, and J. Wilson De Witt, of Pennsylvania, appointed Secretary, it was unanimously

Resolved, That a committee of one from each State (to be appointed by the Chair) wait upon Professor Mitchell, and request a copy of his Introductory Address for publication.

J. WILSON DE WITT, *Secretary.*

WE, the undersigned, appointed a Visiting Committee, according to the above resolution, would add our earnest solicitation to that of the Class, and hope you will favor us with your Address for publication.

CHARLES C. SHOYER, M.D., Wis.

M. C. DOUGHERTY, Va.

J. N. PARR, Ind.

C. ROBINSON, M.D., C. W.

J. A. CROSBY, Ky.

W. L. HAYS, Md.

J. R. SMITH, Ill.

R. E. BROWN, N. J.

GEO. W. CLARKE, Nova Scotia.

W. H. LEWIS, Mass.

JUSTURO V. PANSANT, Cuba.

W. H. CAMPBELL, Mo.

W. T. BULLOCK, R. I.

JOHN TURNBULL, Ohio.

C. CHRISTIE, New Brunswick.

ALBERT CRANE, M.D., La.

MESSRS. CHAS. C. SHOYER, M.D., M. C. DOUGHERTY, J. N. PARR, &C. &C.

Gentlemen,—In reply to your polite note of request for a copy of my Introductory Lecture, allow me to say, that while conscious of its defects, I flatter myself that it may be suggestive of useful reflections to the Class, and for that reason the manuscript is entirely at your disposal. Accept for yourselves, and the gentlemen whom you represent, my cordial wishes for ultimate success in the profession with which we are identified.

Very truly, yours, &c.,

THOS. D. MITCHELL.

October 25th, 1862.

CORRESPONDENCE

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INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

WELCOME, gentlemen, aye, thrice welcome to this temple dedicated to the Science of Medicine. May your beaming faces never lack the lustre of youth, and may this memorable hour prove to be the dawn of a glorious future to every one of you. Not for myself alone is this heartfelt utterance enunciated; the sentiment is the delegated voice of the entire faculty of Jefferson Medical College.

Under no circumstances whatever is the immeasurable magic of association more palpable than in respect of the hours devoted to lectures introductory to a course of medical instruction. In years gone by, each professor occupied an hour in this preliminary service, so that a whole week was lost to the purely didactic programme. A brief experience has abundantly satisfied us that it is wiser and more profitable to hear but one general introductory discourse; and as my worthy colleagues have placed me in the front rank on this occasion, I shall endeavor to interest you by the presentation of a few hints that bear directly on the profession of your choice.

Those who are honored with the post of public teachers, find their thoughts drawn away involuntarily to the period when they were wont to mingle with the crowd for the purpose of listening to similar addresses. All the interesting though chequered scenery of half a century ago bursts on the vision, with the freshness and force of the transactions of yesterday. We gaze upon the well-known forms of *Rush* and *Wistar* and *Physick*, and the classmates, too, who sat by our side, and who contributed to our onward progress, or whose indiscretions annoyed and vexed us; these are all present as though they were realities of scarce a year ago. Present, did I say? Alas! alas! of the hundreds then and there congregated, we cannot

now count a score. Painful, therefore, as well as pleasant reminiscences, fit us to sympathize with those who, young as we were once, are now gathered here and elsewhere, to be instructed in the details of medical science. You are here to-night, just as the speaker was seated, more than half a century ago, in the great hall of the University, which, like its occupants, has ceased to be, to listen for the first time to an introductory lecture. And while we rejoice to meet so many of you at this hour, we know that scores of pupils young as you, would delight to swell this assembly, if that were possible. Their hearts are with us, and in person they would be at your side to night, if their country had not called them to another arena. May the God of battles shield them in the hour of peril.

I cannot repress the feeling of something more than mere complacency, when I announce to you the fact that the session of 1862-3 opens with a full faculty, armed at all points for the winter campaign. You are aware that shortly after the resignation of Professor Meigs, the appointment of Dr. Keating was announced, and for a brief space we really flattered ourselves that our professorial chain was once more complete. But how futile are all human calculations! The organism of him who had but yesterday been called to the chair of Obstetrics, was stricken with disease, which was no doubt aggravated by the sadness of hope deferred. And but for the kindness of our worthy Emeritus professor, that chair, I trow, would have been in a rickety condition last winter. Our old colleague came happily to the rescue, and

“Richard was himself again.”

The timely succor thus proffered was destined to terminate with the last annual commencement, and soon after that event came the tidings of continued ill health of the incumbent of the chair, and then his actual withdrawal from the canvass. And in July last, the Board of Trustees made choice of Dr. Ellerslie Wallace to fill the vacancy. It would be in bad taste to dwell on the fitness of this appointment. But this I will

say, at the risk of trenching on the modesty of my friend. More than twenty years ago he sat in these halls and faithfully discharged the duties of a medical pupil, as I trust you intend to do. In March, 1843, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on him, as I doubt not, it will be, ere long, on some of you. During fifteen years he occupied with great credit to himself and usefulness to the school, the laborious post of Demonstrator of Anatomy, and thus became the companion and instructor of hundreds who are now practitioners of medicine in all parts of this great country, and who will rejoice to hear of his merited elevation to the chair of Obstetrics. Weighed in the balances, our new colleague will not be found wanting, or the speaker is a false prophet.

The teacher of a specific branch of medical science is no longer restricted to the exact limits of his own department on such an occasion as this, and hence an apology is not needful for the topic about to be submitted at this hour. The whole of the profession of medicine consists of more items than those which ordinarily make up the totality of a full course of lectures; and the range now conceded to introductory addresses, offers a happy opportunity for the notice of some very important points which might otherwise be overlooked and forgotten. Most of you are aware that a teacher in a medical school very seldom diverges from the straight line of first principles in his department to descant on the ethics of the profession. Much is it to be regretted that this topic is held by many to be little more than the mere drapery of medicine, aside from which honor and respectability are alike attainable. I am not ignorant of the sentiment often inculcated, that the previous education and discipline of every young man who enters a medical school should be such as to preclude the necessity of an effort to expatiate on the morale of medicine at such a time and in such a place as this. Be that as it may, the landmarks of virtue and integrity, however broad and deep they may have been laid in early youth, are too often obscured by the mists and fogs of erroneous, not to say vicious habits, to be constantly in the mind's eye, as beacons to warn against

danger or to indicate the path of rectitude. All men, of all ages, are too often prone to forget duty. We see the right, and yet the wrong pursue.

For a brief space, therefore, accord to me your patient and candid attention, while I attempt to delineate a few of the more prominent features of the *Professorial* character, and to give a bird's-eye programme of the duties and obligations of medical *pupils*. Our theme is, The *Professor* and the *Pupil*.

Often has it been affirmed that every medical college is, in a very important sense, public property. And most assuredly none will deny that the triumphant success of every such institution is due to public approbation. The whims and caprices of the arrogant and conceited, who are absolutely incompetent to weigh the merits of a medical school, while they never give it stability, are equally powerless to do it serious harm. The solid, sterling common sense of the well-instructed, the rational, the conservative element of society constitute its sure bulwark, and give it the prestige of permanent success. Every well-conducted school of medicine is a temporary substitution of public control and discipline for that which has long been exercised under the paternal roof or in the office of the well-instructed private preceptor. And although it would seem to be self-evident that the same general rules which have been enforced by the principal should be persistently exercised by the substitute, there are now, as in other days, those who regard the period allotted to collegiate instruction as a kind of moral chasm, a season of immunity when men may live as they list, cast off virtuous restraints, and give a loose rein to vicious propensities. And it is with profound regret I am constrained to concede the charge of delinquency on the part of teachers, and to say, that while very many have displayed in bold relief the moral character appropriate to our profession, there have been those whose wayward course served only to confirm the ardent and thoughtless youth in the ruinous practices in which they had unwittingly embarked. In the family compact there are mutual responsibilities binding on all the parties alike. Preposterous would it be to expect the spontaneous gush of

filial affection, where parental regard was wholly wanting, or to look for compliance with rules violated by daily example, and thus nullified at the very fountain-head of authority. Nor can the medical pupil be required to demean himself aright by any professor who disregards the obligations resting upon him by voluntary assumption, to say nothing of the universal claims of moral rectitude.

In the analysis of the topic just announced, the following plain propositions will claim our attention:

First. It is an imperious duty of every Professor, to be ready to impart sound and correct instruction. But, say you, that is a truism, which no one will controvert. And yet you will not deny that some unqualified men have occupied the chairs of professors in schools of medicine. It would be no herculean task to name more than one incumbent incurably deficient, not in actual knowledge merely, but in habits of study so indispensable to countervail inherent inanition. That a truly conscientious man would not accept a position for the duties of which he possessed neither natural nor artificial fitness, one would think might be regarded in the light of an aphorism. That is a point settled, I suppose, beyond controversy. And yet it is not at all difficult to conceive how a superabundance of vanity or self-esteem may so effectually blur a man's vision of himself, as to lead to a totally false estimate of his calibre. "Know thyself," is an injunction quite as little heeded now as when it was first uttered. And what if a man be really possessed of some sort or grade of qualification, does it follow, as a necessary sequence, that he is fitted for the post? One may talk with electric fluency, he may even have what somebody has styled *a verbal diarrhoea*, and yet it will not follow, necessarily, that he is just the right one to fill a professor's chair. Nor will it suffice to be assured that the man was really a student at some period of his career,—that he has actually galloped over a large library, and can talk by the hour of books he never read. In the ordinary practice of our profession, the mere drudgery of a doctor's life, an old capitol will not suffice; nor will it be available to him who would occupy

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the place of public teacher. An ancient stock may command our respect, just for antiquity's sake; but to give it efficiency, it must be burnished, culled out, augmented and fortified by daily additions. The legitimate character of study, as respects the collegiate professor, is perennial, and not spasmodic, surviving alike the scathing heat of summer and the rigors of the wintry blast, and his stock of knowledge is ever on the increase. Fully he appreciates the language of a celebrated father in medicine, who said, almost a century ago, that the physician, and much more the teacher, must be a student as long as he lives. To lay all nature under contribution for facts to aid him in his work, is felt to be an incessant task. His eye, his ear, his hand, every power of his soul must be pledged to the great enterprise. Even if mutation were not stamped on all terrestrial objects, he must be a perpetual student. How much more imperative the obligation when he knows that change is infixed by the finger of Deity on everything below the stars,—that even his own dear self is not the same in all respects that he was a year ago. The hourly development of new facts, the constant displays of newly-discovered resources in nature, call for incessant study and persistent observation. He, therefore, who ventures to the conflict, armed only with the rusty weapons of past experience, will soon realize, to his deep mortification, that Truth, in her telegraphic flight, has left him far in the rear. Nor should the professor be impelled simply by the inspiration of that laudable ambition, peculiar to men of true scientific bearing. The claims of common honesty, based on the return of an equivalent for value received, should have their full weight. We may add, too, that the *esprit du corps* should stimulate him to all honorable efforts to place the welfare of the school with which his fortunes are identified on a permanent basis.

Secondly. As the collegiate sessions are too brief to permit an extended view of any subject, justice demands of the professor a more especial attention to points best suited to qualify for practical usefulness. Few teachers succeed in a complete presentation of their entire subject in one session. They in-

tend to accomplish the object, but often fail for lack of time. When, therefore, such a professor, by reason of undue partiality for a favorite theme, dwells on it at unreasonable length, he necessarily does injustice to other topics, which, it may be, are of vastly greater practical importance. A teacher, of some note in his day, consumed five hours, as we were assured, in discussing, or rather in going over and around the then mooted question of the vitality of the blood, and long before the grave point was decided, more than half of his accustomed auditory had vanished. The residue, one might fancy, must have been not very remote blood relations of Job.

Marked anxiety to make a display of various and extended reading should never be visible on the rostrum, further than to give apt references to authorities for the purpose of fortifying main positions. The chief aim should be to impress the hearers with just views of every topic in as few words as the nature of the case will admit, and all this may be happily accomplished apart from a show of undue zeal to be thought a kind of walking encyclopædia.

Success in teaching medical science is impracticable, unless words and phraseology be so employed that no sane man can fail to understand the speaker. And that the legitimate end of teaching may be fully realized, two qualifications, at least, must be blended in every professor who would be satisfactory and successful. In the first place, he must understand the subject himself. In the second place, he must be able so to teach, that his hearers may comprehend him, if they will. A man may be as wise as Solomon, or, if you please, ten times wiser than he, and yet have no aptness to teach. Who cannot recal cases in point? One of the most learned professors in America, whose reading outstripped that of his colleagues, was, beyond dispute, the worst teacher I ever listened to. Laborious and incessant was he in efforts to perform his work, yet he had unquestioned success at not a single point, save in making confusion worse confounded. There he was at home, and without a rival.

Thirdly. The professor should ever evince a scrupulous

regard for all the rules of morality and the precepts of religion. At profanity he should stand aloof, nor give it countenance for a moment. The teacher who blushes not to obtrude the vulgar and indecent oath gratuitously, is not worthy of public confidence. Unworthy of public confidence, did I say? That does not meet the outrage. He should be made to feel the indignation of an insulted community burning on his forehead and fixing its scathing seal upon him. With falsehood, duplicity, and hypocrisy, the professor should have no fellowship. To remember the Sabbath day and keep it sacred, is an obligation that binds him just as it binds every good citizen. He should hold in ever-during hate the blasting, withering, besotting vice of intemperance,—that Pandora's box, that curse of curses, that moral upas, that despoiler of hopes present, future and eternal, in comparison with which, war, pestilence and famine shrink into utter insignificance. These frightful expedients for the depopulation of the globe have immolated a mass of victims that no human arithmetic can compute. And it would be no impracticable task to demonstrate that their fatal efficiency is due chiefly to the direful influence of intoxicating drinks. Like the bewildering meteor, they come and they go, and we know not when they may return to decimate the race. Not so is it with the other. Ceaseless as the rush of time, and far more desolating than the Alpine avalanche, it never for one moment pauses or abates its fury. For humanity's sake, gentlemen, for your own sakes, I implore you to eschew the accursed thing, now and forever.

The time has been in this city, and within the scope of my memory, when professors held their bacchanalian revels, in which teachers and pupils were alike besotted and sunk as low, to say the best, as the brute. But from the deepest recesses of my soul do I rejoice that such prostitution of talent and office cannot now venture to show its hydra head and brazen front. God grant that professional intemperance may cease to be; that a drunken doctor or professor may be henceforth classed with phrases obsolete, the mere repetition of which shall excite emotions of disgust.

But, while the moral worth of the teacher should prompt to the most uncompromising abhorrence of profanity and intemperance, it should have respect to every amiable quality that adorns virtuous character. In all these respects, however multifarious and even difficult in practice, the Professor should aim to be a pattern to his class, never forgetting the magic spell of influence and the resistless power of a good example.

Moreover, he who would be esteemed a truly reliable teacher, must be exceedingly scrupulous in respect of his authorities, and should never announce, as a fixed fact, any thing which on its face is not entitled to credit. He may cite many verities about which his auditors may have strong doubts; for very wonderful events do come to pass in our day, touching the use of remedies. But should he tell a Jefferson College class, on the printed authority of *Mowbray*, who wrote in 1730, "that a certain countess, on a certain Good Friday, in the year 1276, in the forty-second year of her age, brought forth at one birth 365 infants, 182 being males and the residue females, save one hermaphrodite, the former baptized by the name of John, the others by the name of Elizabeth, the ordinance having been performed in two brazen dishes by the Suffragan bishop of Treves, the brazen dishes being still on exhibition in the village church of Losdun,* where all strangers go from the Hague, being reckoned among the great curiosities of Holland,"† I opine, the narration would provoke such a shout of incredulity as was never before heard within these walls. Rest assured, that downright Munchausen stories, if ever to be told at all, suit the private far better than the public ear.

No less true is it, that the professor should aim to be the friend and counsellor of his pupils. For the most part, the

* "The FEMALE PHYSICIAN, containing all the diseases incident to that sex, in virgins, wives and widows, together with their causes and symptoms, their degrees of danger and respective methods of prevention and cure. To which is added, the whole art of new improved midwifery, comprehending the necessary qualifications of a midwife, and particular directions for laying women, in all cases of difficult and preternatural births; together with the diet and regimen of both mother and child. By John Mowbray, M. D. London, 1730."

† Page, 358.

individuals who compose a medical class are unknown to the community with whom they are destined to be sojourners. They have bade adieu to all the sweet associations and endearing sympathies of home, and relatives, and friends, aye, and more than these, of sweethearts too. Far from the paternal roof, and away from the salutary restraints of friendship, they have taken a temporary residence with strangers. To whom, under such novel circumstances, may they so fitly apply for guidance in regard to study, associations, and all the various items that may affect their welfare, as to those who, in the capacity of teachers, are now to stand in the place of parents and guardians. In all these respects, gentlemen, your teachers feel that you have a claim upon them, and while they cheerfully concede their duty in the premises, they hope to realize the privilege of extending to you the amenities of life, and all those friendly offices which an enlightened humanity may dictate. And just in this relation, allow me to say, that medical pupils who conduct themselves with propriety (and who will not?) may expect to realize very soon, that their lot is cast in the midst of a people who understand the proprieties of social life and the kind bearing ever due to strangers. The city of Brotherly Love is too proud of her medical schools, and her other institutions of learning and philanthropy, to withhold from any honorable pupil the respect and attention to which his deportment entitles him. Doubtless there are exceptions in every large community in respect of the position here taken. But you may rest assured, that the really intelligent and truly respectable citizen is too deeply sensible of the value of these jewels, to treat with indifference or neglect any who come hither with the unfaltering purpose of sharing in their rich treasures. Accord to this purpose its paramount claims, and you will never regret that the City of Philadelphia was your winter home. At no very distant day, you will be ready to declare, as a graduate of Jefferson affirmed in my hearing in Berks county, during a recent sojourn in that region, "the time I spent in your city in attendance on medical lectures, was by far the happiest portion of my life."

All professors in schools of medicine are bound, not merely as a matter of personal gratification and comfort, but equally by the present and future welfare of the pupils, to keep steadily in view the elevation, aye, the triumphant elevation of the institution with which they are connected. The coming fame of each student, equally with the teacher's own well-earned reputation, are to be regarded as integral parts of every medical college. Aside from these, such an institution must be a mere automaton, valueless and ephemeral, from the necessity of the case. But these several parts knit together by suitable adjustments, and the whole moving on in delightful harmony, create an identity of character and interest between pupils and their alma mater, to be effaced only by the wasting touch of death.

Do not misinterpret the remark just dropped in respect of the professor's fealty to his own school of medicine. Very far am I from even insinuating that he is at liberty to begin or carry on a deliberate scheme of opposition to every other, or to any other school, or that he may rightfully defraud another establishment for the aggrandizement of his own. My inmost soul recoils from such an unholy crusade, and no man that has the spirit of a true philanthropist will connive at such detestable injustice. Away with the mean, earthborn zeal that prompts some who wear the professorial robe, to insinuate and falsify in such a way as to inflict a wound on the fair fame of an institution of higher order and of nobler bearing than their own. He who can stoop so low, is unworthy a place in any school of learning. The original meanness of his nature has lost none of its turpitude and littleness, by accidental elevation to a post which he is fitted only to disgrace.

But may not erratic professors, and even reckless medical schools, be kept in check by the concentrated influence of the profession in its capacity of the American Medical Association, which aims, at least, to secure the best results to the fraternity? This must be regarded as a very grave question, and perchance there may be those who would chide us for a doubt on the subject. Yet we have to declare, most frankly,

that no valid reason has been advanced to change our opinion on this whole question, as we first gave it publicity in the year 1847. We then hazarded the sentiment that no device, however elaborate or well conducted, can control the base and unprincipled, whether they be public teachers or private preceptors. We reached this conclusion simply from what a long life had taught us touching the downhill tendency of human depravity. We saw that the practicability of casting intrigue, flattery, and prevarication into the mould of a pure and inflexible morality had never been realized, and that all who fancied that such a result was attainable were dreamers only, and not practical common sense observers. As well might we essay to hem in the whirlwind, or to restrict the fury of the tornado by moral suasion, or even by severe penal enactments, as to *resolve* the sordid, niggardly miscreant into an honest man. No human power ever did or ever can accomplish it, just because it is impossible to any and every agency save that of omnipotence. And yet something is demanded of a remedial character that may abate, if it cannot nullify, the evil. The time has arrived, as I verily believe, for the enforcement of vigorous measures, somehow and by some proper authority. The evils complained of are far more rampant than we suppose them to be, and quite as grave as prior to the formation of the American Association; and by consequence, that body has not been sufficiently authoritative to exert a salutary remedial influence. I would cheerfully vote to denounce and disown, most publicly, any medical school whose derelictions in the matters referred to were of public notoriety, and for which no suitable atonement had ever met the public eye. Let the seal of reprobation be fixed unalterably, so that after tergiversations may find the culprits outside the enclosure of the profession. To this plan of correcting palpable violations of rectitude, might very properly be added such a revision of existing laws for conferring the degree of Doctor of Medicine, as would authorize every faculty to cite before it any and every alumnus charged by common fame with repeated flagrant violations of professional decorum; and on conviction, after an impartial hearing, to

annul the diploma, and by public outcry to declare the offender no longer a member of the profession. This course is substantially carried out in respect of the legal profession, and it is the only expedient that seems to be feasible in our own body.

Thus, gentlemen, I have noticed, very cursorily, some of the obligations of professors in medical schools, in connection with the right discharge of their official duty, and the hints, I think, may be subjects of profitable reflection to each one of you at your leisure. To approximate completeness of the aim of this lecture, however, it is necessary to say something specially in respect of the *pupils* of a medical school. That point will next claim our attention.

The moment you place your names on the register of matriculates, as some of you have already done, you put yourselves, voluntarily, under responsibilities from which you cannot be released, excepting by honorable acquiescence. Every institution, in the nature of a college, has its code of laws, and the individuals who identify themselves with its interests and fortunes, are bound to yield a cheerful and uniform obedience to all the requisitions on its statute book.

Wherefore are you here to-night? This is not your own dear home. The beloved fireside of the old family mansion, the charming scenery of native hill and valley are not here. What could have induced you to abandon those tender associations, and why do I behold your sparkling countenances in this strange spot? Have you encountered the perils and toils of a long journey over mountain fastnesses, and the rugged byways of the wilderness, to come to a great city, just to indulge in revelry and dissipation; to waste your hours, to despoil your health in the haunts of temptation that make up the black spots of every large metropolis? Are these the objects for which aged sires and venerable matrons, who painfully bade you farewell as you passed from their embrace, never, perhaps, to return, were willing to give their funds with liberality? Conscience responds, No! Your presence here to-night responds, No! You have embarked in an enterprise that forbids such a profanation of the narrow span of life. You have been moved

by a laudable solicitude to share in the best opportunities for the attainment of a noble object, and hence you have resolved to place yourselves under the guardian care of the faculty of Jefferson Medical College. Permit me therefore, gentlemen, in the spirit of unaffected friendship, to offer a few suggestions, the right estimate of which cannot fail to facilitate your progress in the important enterprise in which you have embarked, and to the details of which you expect to devote the residue of life.

Be it your unwavering purpose to pay a scrupulous regard to all the rules of college. It is not needful to apprise you that these are all calculated to promote alike the welfare of the pupil and the comfort of the professor. They partake of the nature and essence of the best regulations of domestic economy, and the neglect of them engenders confusion and disorder. Especially, because it lies at the foundation of good order in a public institution, I would urge upon you the propriety of punctual attendance in the lecture-rooms at the specified hours, and a fixed determination to profit by all the instructions. It is much to be deplored that in all our medical schools, both teachers and pupils are, now and then, sadly annoyed by the habitually, irregular attendance of a few persons who seem to be regardless of self-respect as well as the comfort and convenience of others. Need I say that all this is manifestly wrong? The rights of one pupil are just the same as the rights of another, and no one can hope to invade those rights with impunity.

In a very interesting book of travels in Germany, written by one of the Dwights of New England, I find an important record touching the University of Gottingen, which is so well suited to our present purpose that I give it place just here. May it be the good fortune of some future historian to make as favorable a note in reference to all the medical schools of America.

"The lectures," says the author, "commence ten minutes after the sound of the clock, and terminate the moment it strikes again; the professor detaining the class no longer than to finish a sentence. To a greater delay they would not

submit, not even to close a long paragraph, as that might prevent them from reaching the lecture room of some other professor in time; *it being considered indecorous for a student to enter the room after a lecture has commenced.*" Acting out the same principle, precisely, the distinguished predecessor of him who now fills the pulpit of the church on Washington Square, instructed the janitor to lock the doors at ten minutes after the regular hour of worship had been proclaimed by the neighboring town clock. His intense nervous excitability could not brook the irregularities for which this expedient was deemed an imperious necessity.

I do not forget that some medical teachers are so well balanced, as the result of long practice, that late entrance into their hall of half a dozen stragglers at once, cannot seriously annoy them. But there are those who are not so fortunate. Cast in the mould of super-sensitiveness, they are prone to lose the thread of their discourse, especially if that be extemporaneous, by reason of the most trifling disorder around them. The noisy approach of one or two delinquents will give to such a teacher a sort of neuralgic fit, almost paralysing his mind as well as his tongue; the results, as you can well imagine, may be disastrous to all parties. And be assured, gentlemen, that irregular habits of any kind will exert an unfavorable influence on your progress. All such habits, if not the legitimate fruit of a moral obliquity, already incurable, may sooner or later fix character indelibly, and give to all your plans and operations that fluctuating tendency which is the inevitable sequence of a reckless disregard to system and rule.

Permit me, further, to guard you against the waste of time, by embarking in any enterprise whose tendency may be to transfer your attention from the subjects that have a paramount claim on you. Not an hour can be thrown away. Frivolous and contemptible pursuits, or devotion to topics of national importance even, are wholly out of place during the session of a medical school. Our term is quite too brief to admit of such entrenchments on its limits. One grand object claims your regard, and every thing likely to divert the mind

from that should be sedulously avoided. Resist, therefore, I pray you, every motive and enticement thrown across your path, that savors even of an invitation to associate for any purpose that may retard or interfere with your studies. Patient, diligent, persevering study is your fitting motto. Give it not only the time that must necessarily be spent within this enclosure, but every moment of leisure that can be appropriated in consistence with a due regard to health. Faithfully carrying out this purpose, not an hour will hang heavily upon you, and you will ultimately reap the happy fruits of untiring industry.

Some of you never heard of the *Continental* money to which the war of the American Revolution gave birth. The earliest issues of that currency contained a most pithy and significant sentiment, whose philosophy has never been duly appreciated. The notes, whether of small or large amount, bore the same inscription, and that was,—

Mind your own business.

Let every pupil have a constant regard for the great end of his sojourn in this city, and his highest aspirations will be realized. The secret of success lies in the motto of the *Continental* money.

As a further incentive to fidelity in your studies, may I not refer, very appropriately, to the scores of graduates who date their rise, not only, but all their progress, elevation and success from this hall of science? Their country called for their services in the tent, the camp, the field, the hospital, and there you might find them at this hour, wearing, with becoming modesty, the laurels won by patient study, talent and energy, and their names will live in the annals of America long after you and I shall cease to be. To one of the number has been entrusted the weighty task of writing out, for posterity, the *Surgical History of the War*, and I very much mistake the man if he will not meet the crisis so effectually as to honor himself, not only, but at the same time to add to the well earned fame of his Alma Mater. All these living examples of

patient industry speak aloud to every pupil before me. Their language of counsel is, go and do likewise.

You know, gentlemen, as well as I do, that our great and glorious American Union has been agitated, aye, rocked to its centre, by what have been styled by the demagogues who manufactured them, *political platforms*. Nor need I inform you that these have often been made obscure, by design, and so calculated to confuse and mislead. Not thus is it with the platform of Jefferson Medical College. But, possibly, you never heard of such an item as appertaining to a School of Medicine, and yet it is, or ought to be, a fundamental feature of every College. Never was a more simple, yet comprehensive outline of action designated than this platform of ours places before you. No double entendre nor beguiling inuendo mars its symmetry. It contains just two sections; and as a child may comprehend them, may I not hope that you will give them a deep lodgment in your memory? Each section is told in six words, and as many syllables. The first concerns *Professors*, and thus it runs,—

✓ TO TEACH THE BEST THEY CAN.

The second is for *Pupils*, and its language is,—

TO LEARN THE MOST THEY CAN.

There is our platform; and while I pledge the energies of the faculty for the fulfilment of the first part, do I crave too much of you when I say, see to it that you comply to the letter with the residue.

✓ Once more. Do not think it strange if I solicit your special regard to a regular attendance of public worship on the Sabbath day. Six days in a week are quite enough for the study of medicine, and your physical, moral and mental powers will be decidedly gainers by heeding the advice just tendered. One of the most distinguished of American physicians was wont to dwell on this momentous theme. He did more. During the full tide of a large practice, he was seen on almost every first-

day of the week in some place of religious worship. He was more emphatically a punctual, methodical man than any physician I have ever known, and on no point was his passion for those virtues more obvious than in respect of the topic adverted to. He felt it his duty, as his published writings testify, to give all the force of his example and influence in favor of an institution which, in his view, was essential to the stability of the Government and the happiness of society. I know of no item of duty capable of exerting so powerful a tendency to systematize and christianize human character and conduct, and to identify punctuality with our very nature, as the regular practice of attending public worship. Nor do I believe, that any habit is so well fitted to fix your character in the judgment of the community. Locate where you may, the men and the women who mark you as a punctilious observer of this duty, will hold you in far higher estimation than the physician who neglects it altogether. The sentiment is irresistible, that he who is conscientious in this matter, is worthy of confidence; and he may safely calculate on ultimate success. Of the moral tendencies it is unnecessary to say a word, as these are conceded. To aid you in the discharge of this duty, I add, that the janitors of all the churches will conduct you to seats that are usually reserved for strangers.

As some of my audience may desire to visit the celebrated schools of Europe, at no very distant day, it is well to relieve your minds of any embarrassment that rumor may have cast on this subject. I proffer you the most positive assurances that graduates of Jefferson Medical College are admitted to the foreign schools on just the same conditions with all other graduates. As it has been my lot to have been identified with several schools in the Southwest, it is proper to state that every one of these institutions has had representatives abroad. To specify medical colleges here and elsewhere in point, may not be needful at this moment. Suffice it to say, that graduates of every regular school in Philadelphia, have availed themselves of the advantages of the Parisian and other foreign institutions. Add to these, graduates of schools in New

England, New York, Kentucky, and Ohio. In short, there is no sort of distinction or preference in this regard. A diploma from Jefferson Medical College is a passport the wide world over.

In tendering to you, gentlemen, the counsel which it has been a chief aim of this lecture to impart, it is not needful to assure you, that the motives of the speaker have been pure and disinterested. He has learned enough of human nature from observation and experience to be able to speak out plainly and confidently on topics such as those urged upon you to-night. If each member of the class will receive the admonitions in the same spirit which has dictated them, and henceforth reduce them to daily practice, I venture to predict that the session on which we have now entered, will be full of profit and interest, and that every pupil will return to his home delighted with his temporary abode in Philadelphia, and entirely satisfied with the teachings of Jefferson Medical College.

Finally, in respect of my own department in the teachings of this hall, allow me to say, that I hope to make you familiar with all that is truly valuable in the domain of *Materia Medica* and General Therapeutics. It will be my aim so to teach that you may be able to employ all the remedial agents that are worthy of note, in the safest and most efficient manner. Trusting rather to a reasonable share of good common sense than to the arts of the rhetorician to give right views of the value of the host of remedies vouchsafed to us by a kind Providence, I flatter myself that the efforts in this humble department will not be in vain.

Oct. 2. 1853.

